

from international inspection. If they were to pledge to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group that would be a different thing. But the Zangger committee has the loophole necessary to proliferate nuclear technology with the potential of nuclear weaponry to places that don't have international inspection. China is the only nuclear weapons power in the world that has not joined the Nuclear Suppliers Group and they remain unwilling to do so.

The national security arguments for United States-China nuclear cooperation are far from compelling, and the economic rationale is exaggerated. As the Washington Post notes this morning, United States big business is lobbying hard for nuclear cooperation with China in hopes that this market will boost exports.

I want United States businesses to benefit from possible export markets, but China is seeking nuclear cooperation with the United States to increase the number of bidders for and to lower the price of Chinese power projects. Once China obtains nuclear technology, they will reverse engineer our products and they will start building those products themselves and be our competitors in other export markets.

As Dan Horner of the Nuclear Control Institute notes in the Post article this morning, China is only seeking enough technology to develop a domestic production capability.

The United States should not enter into nuclear cooperation with China until real and observable progress is made in China's nonproliferation record. Before we send our nuclear technology to China, Beijing should cut off all nuclear cooperation with terrorist states, such as Iran. Before we send our nuclear technology to China, Beijing should maintain at least for 1 year an exemplary nonproliferation record for all weapons-of-mass-destruction technology, including technologies other than nuclear—chemical technologies and biological technologies.

The threat of weapons of mass destruction has become a broader issue than that of nuclear-proliferation technology alone. Chemical weapons, biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver those weapons are all part of the weapons-of-mass-destruction threat. China's improvements in nuclear nonproliferation are questionable at best, but even the administration can't defend China's broader weapons-of-mass-destruction nonproliferation record.

Even though the administration argues that China has honored its May 1996 pledge not to transfer nuclear material to unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, doubts persist about China's recent nuclear-proliferation activity. A June 1997 CIA report released this year states that:

During the last half of 1996—

After its assurances of May 1996—

During the last half of 1996, China was the most significant supplier of [weapons of

mass-destruction]-related goods and technology to foreign countries. The Chinese provided a tremendous variety of assistance to both Iran's and Pakistan's ballistic-missile programs. China was also the primary source of nuclear-related equipment and technology to Pakistan, and a key supplier to Iran during this reporting period.

Clearly, the Chinese record does not develop a sense of confidence in those who observe her objectively, and it certainly does not justify a bill of good health that nuclear cooperation would signify.

Therefore, I hope the President does not accord to China a standing it does not deserve in a way that would jeopardize our capacity to restrain the proliferation of nuclear technology.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. BOND addressed the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Missouri.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended by 5 minutes and that I be permitted to speak therein.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOND. I thank the Chair.

CAMPAIGN FOR HEALTHIER BABIES MONTH

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today on a very, very important mission, and that is to highlight the important work of the March of Dimes and its over 3 million dedicated volunteers across America. I thank and congratulate them on the most worthwhile of endeavors.

During the month of October, the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation is celebrating Campaign for Healthier Babies Month by stepping up its efforts to reach more women of childbearing age with valuable information which will give every baby a better chance of being born healthy.

These efforts are critical to prevent birth defects, low birthweight and prematurity, which are the leading causes of infant death and morbidity and also a tremendous cause of heart-break and tragedy for so many families in the United States today.

As all of us know, the March of Dimes is a national voluntary health agency whose mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality. Through its campaign for healthier babies, the March of Dimes funds programs of research, community services, education and advocacy. To enhance these efforts, the foundation has started the March of Dimes Resource Center.

The resource center provides accurate up-to-date information and referral services to the public. It consistently offers high-quality, reliable, and

prompt responses. It is staffed by highly trained professionals. The March of Dimes helps people one on one to address personal and complex problems relating to maternal and child health. The center provides information on numerous topics in which the March of Dimes has been in the forefront, such as the dangers of drug and alcohol use and other hazards during pregnancy. And most important, it is promoting the use of folic acid by women of childbearing age.

We know now that 400 micrograms of vitamin B folic acid taken regularly by women of childbearing age before they become pregnant can reduce by one-half, or even 70 percent, the incidence of neural tube defects in babies born in America today. I don't know how many of my colleagues know of a family that has been afflicted with the loss of a child who was born with a severe and fatal neural tube defect. Many of us know good friends who were born with spina bifida and other problems which could be substantially reduced if women of childbearing age regularly take 400 micrograms of vitamin B folic acid every day.

The March of Dimes professionals and the resource center answer questions from parents, health providers, students, librarians, Government agencies, health departments, social workers—people from all walks of life. The good people at the March of Dimes estimate that through the resource center, they will provide information to almost half a million individuals in the first year alone.

The center is a state-of-the-art facility which can be contacted by people around the world through both a toll free number and e-mail. March of Dimes is shortened to MODIMES, M-O-D-I-M-E-S, MODIMES. The toll free number is 1-888-MODIMES, or by e-mail, the Web site is www.modimes.org. I urge people to take advantage of the toll free number or the Web site.

I congratulate the March of Dimes on the success of the resource center, and I thank them for the years of dedicated work to prevent birth defects and to reduce infant mortality.

Mr. President, we rank far too high in infant mortality in this country. Many, many countries do better than we do because we don't provide the care and the attention that expectant mothers need.

Many of my colleagues in this body know that I have been a long-time supporter of a particular priority, the March of Dimes and the Birth Defects Prevention Act I first introduced in 1992. It has been passed time and time again by the Senate. In June of this year, this vital piece of legislation passed the Senate by a unanimous vote. A House companion bill currently has over 130 cosponsors. Both bills have strong bipartisan support in our body, the majority leader and the minority leader both, along with most of the people on all the relevant committees.